

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
September 16, 2014

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein O. Bontreger, H. Dan Stalbaum, Ronald G. Sipkema, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan and Andrew Andree. Also present was the Auditor of Jasper County, Kimberly K. Grow and Deputy Auditor, Donna J. Horner. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Price.

MINUTES: Mr. Andree made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting / 2015 Budget Hearings held on August 19, 2014. Mr. Sipkema seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / CORONER'S BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Coroner's Budget, Other Services & Charges was \$305.00 in the "Attorney" line, \$6,170.00 in the "Autopsy" line, \$1,225.00 in the "Morgue Holding Fee" line, and \$5,825.00 in the "Pathologist" line for a total request of \$13,525.00. Andy Boersma, Coroner, explained that money was encumbered over into his 2014 budget last year to pay for bills that were incurred in the month of December; however, the State did not approve the encumbrance due to the timing of the bills. Due to the encumbrance not being approved, the bills were paid out of the 2014 budget; therefore, Mr. Boersma has requested the additional to cover the amounts that were taken out at the beginning of the year. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-09A** as advertised. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Per Mr. Price's request, Mr. Boersma gave an update on the county morgue.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY: Advertised in the Jasper County Airport Authority Fund was \$26,234.00 in Operating Fund, Other Services & Charges, Contractual Services and \$60,000.00 in Capital Outlays, Machinery & Equipment for a total request of \$86,234.00. Brad Cozza, Airport Manager, stated that, with your support, we were able to complete some of the interim improvements on the existing fuel farm this summer. At the same time, we are continuing with the design and engineering of the future farm. Mr. Cozza requested that the Airport Authority be allowed to appropriate some of the funds (\$26,234.00) within their operating fund to be used towards the design and engineering. Mr. Cozza stated that they were able to find some savings; therefore, the second request in the amount of \$60,000.00 to be used for snow removal equipment can be reduced to \$45,000.00. Mr. Price made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-09B** in the amount of \$71,234.00. Mr. Stalbaum seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / WEED BOARD BUDGET: A request has been made to transfer \$2,200.00 into Personal Services, Part-Time Help with \$1,500.00 from Supplies, Chemicals; \$100.00 from Other Services & Charges, Mileage; and \$600.00 from Other Services & Charges, Rental of Equipment. Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING & 2015 BUDGET ADOPTION: A public hearing was held to adopt the budgets for 2015. There was no public comment. Mr. Sipkema made a motion to approve the following budgets for 2015. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

County General	\$ 12,163,667.00
Local Health Maintenance	\$ 33,139.00
Jail Special CAGIT	\$ 1,516,200.00
CAGIT County Certified Shares	\$ 3,750,000.00
CEDIT	\$ 1,534,473.00
Clerks Record Perpetuation	\$ 8,483.00
Community Corrections Project Income	\$ 308,000.00
Cumulative Bridge	\$ 1,000,000.00
Cumulative Capital Development	\$ 1,035,000.00
Cumulative Capital Improvement	\$ 1,500,000.00

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September 16, 2014

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING & 2015 BUDGET ADOPTION CON'T:

Emergency Medical Service	\$ 650,820.00
Emergency Planning / Right to Know	\$ 6,000.00
Extradition	\$ 15,000.00
Health	\$ 310,627.00
Local Road & Street	\$ 600,000.00
Public Safety	\$ 1,335,963.00
Highway	\$ 6,381,745.00
Deferral & Diversion	\$ 19,621.00
Recorder Record Perpetuation	\$ 41,983.00
Supplemental Public Defender	\$ 10,000.00
Surveyor Corner Perpetuation	\$ 11,000.00
Statewide 911	\$ 632,896.00
Reassessment	\$ 192,843.00
Partners / Drug Free Community	\$ 1,500.00
IN Local Health Maintenance Trust	\$ 20,739.00
Supplemental Adult Probation	\$ 135,000.00
Community Corrections Work Release	\$ 11,500.00
Supplemental Juvenile Probation	\$ 27,700.00
County User Fees	\$ 166,500.00
Donations-Warning Sirens	\$ 3,000.00
Innkeepers Tax	\$ 125,000.00
 Total Budget	 \$ 33,548,399.00

NON-BINDING REVIEWS: Sandra Putt, Jordan Township Trustee, reported that an additional \$5,000.00 has been added to the fire budget in order to purchase equipment for the two fire departments that service their township. Mr. DeVries made the motion to recommend that all non-binding units keep their budgets within the 2.7% growth factor set by the State. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT / BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS: At the August meeting, an appointment was made to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA); however, the appointment has chosen to not accept the position. Mr. Sipkema nominated Scott Walstra to serve as the Council's appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Jordan made a motion to close the nominations. After a unanimous vote, Scott Walstra was appointed to the BZA.

PUBLIC HEARING OF BINDING TAXING UNITS:

Rensselaer Central School Corporation: Ned Speicher, Rensselaer Central School Corporation, stated that they are actually advertising less than what was advertised last year and that it is expected that the tax rate will continue to fall. The purchase of two (2) new school busses has been budgeted for next year. Mr. Speicher stated that the State requires that the busses be used a minimum of 13 years and that they have to be rotated out within 17 years. The debt to severance bonds has been paid off; therefore, that fund is no longer on there. Mr. Speicher stated that a referendum was held in 2009 to build the new school. The tax rate at that time was \$.66. We made a promise to the taxpayers that we would not exceed that amount. The tax rate today is \$.57.

Airport Authority Board: Brad Cozza, Airport Manager, stated that this year we were really pleased to be able to hold the line on the budget across all three funds while continuing to serve the diverse constituents that we have at the airport. A brief review of the budget was given. After a reevaluation by their financial advisor, the Board has recommended the reduction of their tax levy rate for the operating fund. The new rate would be roughly .0079%. In response to discussion regarding the possible construction of private hangers, Mr. Cozza explained that the land legally resides in the county's name; therefore, the Airport Authority does not have ground to give. With our demographics, we have more that are interested in leasing the smaller hanger. In response to a question from Mr. DeVries, Mr. Cozza replied that the County Council has the opportunity to reduce the tax levy on the operating fund. The rate last year was .0209%.

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September 16, 2014

PUBLIC HEARING OF BINDING TAXING UNITS CON'T:

Iroquois Conservancy District: Dan Blaney and Dale Lehe were present on behalf of the Iroquois Conservancy District. Mr. Blaney explained that there are approximately 40 miles of Iroquois River in Jasper and Newton Counties. The total budget is \$222,500.00. Of this amount, \$150,000.00 is for tree debris removal & maintenance and \$50,000.00 has been budgeted for US Geological Survey.

Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District: Carol Stradling, Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District, stated that their tax levy is zero and that they are not requesting any money from the county. Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District serves six (6) counties – Newton, Carroll, Benton, Jasper, Pulaski, and White. Ms. Stradling stated that Jasper County is the fiscal body of the largest assessed valuation; therefore, you approve the budget. The funding comes from the two landfills within the district. NWISWD receives \$.10 for every ton of trash that goes into the Newton County landfill and \$.12 ½ for every ton that goes into the White County landfill. This supplies the district with over \$400,000.00 per year. Ms. Stradling stated that they have reduced the amount given to counties from \$120,000.00 to \$60,000.00. In the past, each county received \$20,000.00 each. In 2015, each county will only receive \$10,000.00. The grants to the recycling centers have stayed the same at \$154,000.00. Each recycling center receives \$22,000.00.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT TERMS / NORTHWEST INDIANA SOLID WASTE DISTRICT: Ms. Stradling explained that because Jasper County is the fiscal body of the Political Subdivision known as Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District, Jasper County is in charge of the investment options. The ordinance presented for approval states that the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District in accordance with IC 5-13-9-5.7 is adopting an investment policy authorizing the investment of public funds of more than two (2) years and not more than five (5) years. Attorney Monfort has reviewed the ordinance. Mr. Price made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 9-16-2014A**. Mr. Sipkema seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ENFORCEMENT OF JASPER COUNTY BUILDING AND ZONING CODES / VIOLATIONS BUREAU: A prepared statement was read by Mr. Price in regards to the “Enforcement of the County Building and Zoning Codes” (See Attachment). Mr. Price made the motion to have Attorney Monfort look into this and report back. Motion died for lack of a second. After further discussion, the decision was made to place the topic on the October agenda. Bernard Seegers and Tom Mathis, concerned citizens, both expressed support of Mr. Price’s efforts.

OCTOBER MEETING / CHANGE OF DATE: Ms. Grow requested that the October meeting date be changed due to a conflict with Auditor’s Conference. After some discussion, the decision was made to change the date to Tuesday, October 28.

Please note – Due to the scheduled public hearing and budget adoption of the binding reviews, the meeting date will remain on the original date of Tuesday, October 21.

There being no further business, Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sipkema seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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